

2 Shawnee Rd.
Cambridge, MD. 21613
March 6, 2007

Ms. Sonya Davis
VMRC
2600 Washington Ave.
3rd. Floor
Newport News, VA. 23607

Dear Ms. Davis,

You might be surprised to get a letter from Maryland concerning the Kirkley menhaden study. I have been involved in the menhaden issue for several years. One of the things that has disappointed me in the area of fishery management has been the narrowness of the approach by the ASMFC. Much has been made of the reliance on "science" in decision making to avoid politically motivated regulations. However, the "science" has been limited to "fish biology", for lack of a better term.

The data available to the ASMFC management board needs to be expanded to include, primarily, economics and secondarily the sociological effects. The study proposed by Dr. Kirkley does that and recognizes all of the Chesapeake Bay area is involved. Perhaps for the first time, a complete evaluation of the value of menhaden will emerge and force fishery managers to actually manage with a complete understanding of the situation and their responsibilities.

Sincerely,
Charles Hutchinson

